

DGWSD



newsletter

Autumn 2018

Type to enter a caption.



Type to enter a caption.

(from September - Goodbye from our current Chairperson, Isabelle Jourdan)

Dear creative Makers of beautiful things,

it is time to say au revoir to all of you and the magical Devon landscape. It feels harder this time to move away, because of you. I can hear you say: "Then stay here"! It would be so easy, but I have to do this. It feels right and it's time to embrace my French heritage, which I have been avoiding for too long.

All boxes are packed, but we are still running high on adrenaline. We just had a call from our removal people saying that they will arrive in France with our stuff on Wednesday 3rd September. We didn't expect it so soon, but it's better than waiting. No rest for the wicked!

Please find attached my Ewes News.

Be well. Be wild and inspired.

Isabelle x

"Where there is a Will, there is a Wool."

Ewes News

September 2018

Dear creative Makers,
tomorrow we leave the green, lush hills of Devon behind to take the ferry from Poole to Cherbourg. Let's pray for fair weather and calm waters. **Sheep ahoi!**



After we arrive in Cherbourg on Saturday 29th, we will take three days to slowly move south to Blagnac/Toulouse where we rent a small place for a few months just so we can 'arrive' without too much hassle, before we move to our chosen destination – Gaillac/Tarn.



I was also informed that the vine harvest is in full swing and that we can expect a great wine year. Well, I think I need to taste it first to confirm this claim ;-) I'll let you know.

Weather in Toulouse: sunny, 26C

Learn a little French:

sheep = le mouton

ewe = la brebis

ram = le blier

lamb = l'agneau

flock of sheep = le troupeau

shepherd = le berger

sheep dog = chien de berger

sheepish = penaud

to shear (sheep) = tondre

flock off! = va-t'en!

Today's Sheep Humour:

SUSHEEP



RABBIT CAN COOK

Food for thought: "Imagine what you can create. Create what you can imagine."

A bientôt, mes amis.

Isabelle x

wildwomanweaving@mail.com

www.wildwomanweaving.wix.com/warpspeed

and the very latest missive from our erstwhile Chairperson -

Dear wonderful Weavers, Spinners & Dyers

I'm still waiting for the internet connection to be installed, and it's frightening how much I depend on it for communication, keeping in touch, banking etc. (I'm writing this on Oct 14th). Now, it's the 24th and we are online again.

We have settled into our small, temporary house in Blagnac/Toulouse and all of the people we have met so far were very friendly and helpful. The first thing we have discovered was the market with its local produce. So typical French. What can I say? Total bliss!

On Saturday 13th Oct I thought of you and wished I could have been there for the Challenge day. Did you have a great and exciting day? I'm sure you did! I'm looking forward to hearing the news and reading the results of the competition on the website.

Unfortunately I'm unable to unpack my craft room. The garage which is on the property is useless. The floor is uneven and made of pebbles. The roof has holes, the flimsy light is not worth switching on and there is still stuff from the landlord.

All the boxes and looms are now occupying the second bedroom and is filled to the ceiling. Is this what they call a box room?

So, I created a temporary 'craft basket' with the minimum of equipments (small weaving frames, bobbins and lazy kate), tools, yarns and tops. Thankfully my spinning wheel is in the lounge and already busy.

Because of this restriction I have more time to visit the local wine fairs, tasting my way through and deciding which one, two or more to buy. Ah! Life is hard. I know!

Be well. Be wild. And keep creating beautiful things.

Isabelle Jourdan

If you are interested to receive more news about my unfolding life in France, please send me an email with the request for "Ewes News".
wildwomanweaving@mail.com

International Back to Back Wool Challenge

The competition in its present format started in 1995.

The aim; to complete a sweater from sheep to shoulder within a day.

Each year teams compete to complete the challenge to promote Wool world wide and to raise money for Cancer Research.

- The first year a team from the Shetland Isles completed the task in **5hrs, 57mins and 58secs**.
- The **South Hams Guild of weavers spinners and dyers** won the competition in 1998 (**6hrs, 7mins, 0secs**) and again in 1999 (**5hrs, 54mins, 0secs**).
- The present World record is **4hrs, 45mins and 53secs** held by a Dutch / German Team on 26th June 2017.

A team of local* spinners and knitters attempted to complete a Sweater from a shorn sheep (Devon Jacob) at the Totnes show (29th July 2018).

(*Totnes spinning group, South Hams Guild of Weavers Spinners and Dyers, Devon Guild of Weavers spinners and dyers)

As we had very little time to practice and then struggled to get a full team of 8 spinners and knitters who felt up to the task our version was modified!

We still honoured the majority of the Back to Back challenge rules with the following changes;

- An Aran weight yarn was produced.
- The Sweater pattern was modified for this weight of yarn and the knitting skills of our team.
- Spinners and Knitters dropped in and out as required.



Type to enter a caption.

The challenge was completed in just under 7 hours
Jackie Millichap

University of Strathclyde - Glasgow 16-29 July

Being on holiday in Edinburgh this July was the ideal opportunity to take a bus trip over to Glasgow city centre for the National Exhibition; and to visit my old haunts at Strathclyde Uni where I was a chemistry student long ago.

We were welcomed by Scottish guild members to the Collins Gallery, an airy well lit exhibition space, where the first thing we saw was Terri Bate's Ryeland fleece indigo dyed Aran coat very fetchingly teamed with a blue tartan kilt. I was very proud to see the Devon Guild's contribution - Pam Brown's rainbow coloured Mitred Mitts and Scarf; Jackie Millichap's Jacob Selbu Mitts; Jackie Thomas' traditional Swedish woven cotton Mosquito Net Curtain and Amanda Trick's sweet colourful Purses for Two Little Girls in Shetland wool.

Altogether the pieces submitted to the exhibition were very beautiful and the variety of skills displayed impressive. We'd have been hard put to choose a favourite but there was the chance to choose between about six items for a particular award; and we plumped for the Shetland Style Marriage Bed Rug as it must have been so much work and had a charming story behind it. I was impressed that the selectors had put on display a piece each of their own perhaps to reassure us they were qualified for the job! Also pretty amazing were all the Mackintosh styled jewellery (over 100) including a beautiful brooch by Pam Brown (apologies if I've forgotten other Devon members contributions).

One of 8 boards of textile jewellery in the style of Charles Rennie Mackintosh with Pam Brown's brooch (photo top left).



They could be spun, dyed, felted, knitted, crocheted, tatted, woven or braided.

Afterwards we went to a Mackintosh architectural exhibition in the Light- house Building in the city; so all in all it was a really enjoyable day.

Anne Sneddon

3 examples from Scotland's entries:



Trisha Gow Edinburgh Guild

East Haven

Tapestry weaving. Cotton warp.

Wool, linen silk and cotton wefts.



Jess McCaffery Edinburgh Guild

Shetland Style Marriage Bed Rug

All Shetland wool. Ground woven on 16" rigid heddle loom. Bride (BY) half and groom (AM) half to be stitched together before wedding.



Caroline Thompson West of Scotland

N'jal's Saga

Graduating blends of natural colours of Herdwick fleece spun, then half dyed with red acid dye, along with white pencil rovings, plus black.

SKILLS/Challenge day Results 2018

Trophy

Cold Harbour:
(for Weaving)

First

Karen Ball.

Second

Ann Durrant

Dyeing:

Sheilagh Robson.

Judy Throup

Edna Gibson:

Barbara Heath.

Ann Durrant

(for a skein of handspun yarn)

Joan Boardman :

Cathy Noble.

Sara Parnell

(for an article knitted or crocheted from handspun yarn)

Lesley Neate:

Sara Parnell

(best use of natural coloured fibre)

Shetland (this year - lace):

Terri Bate

Tiro (less than one year's experience in chosen craft): Sara Parnell

Eleanor :

Jo Williams

Barbara Heath

(Best finish of knitted article)

Judges Choice:

Sara Parnell.

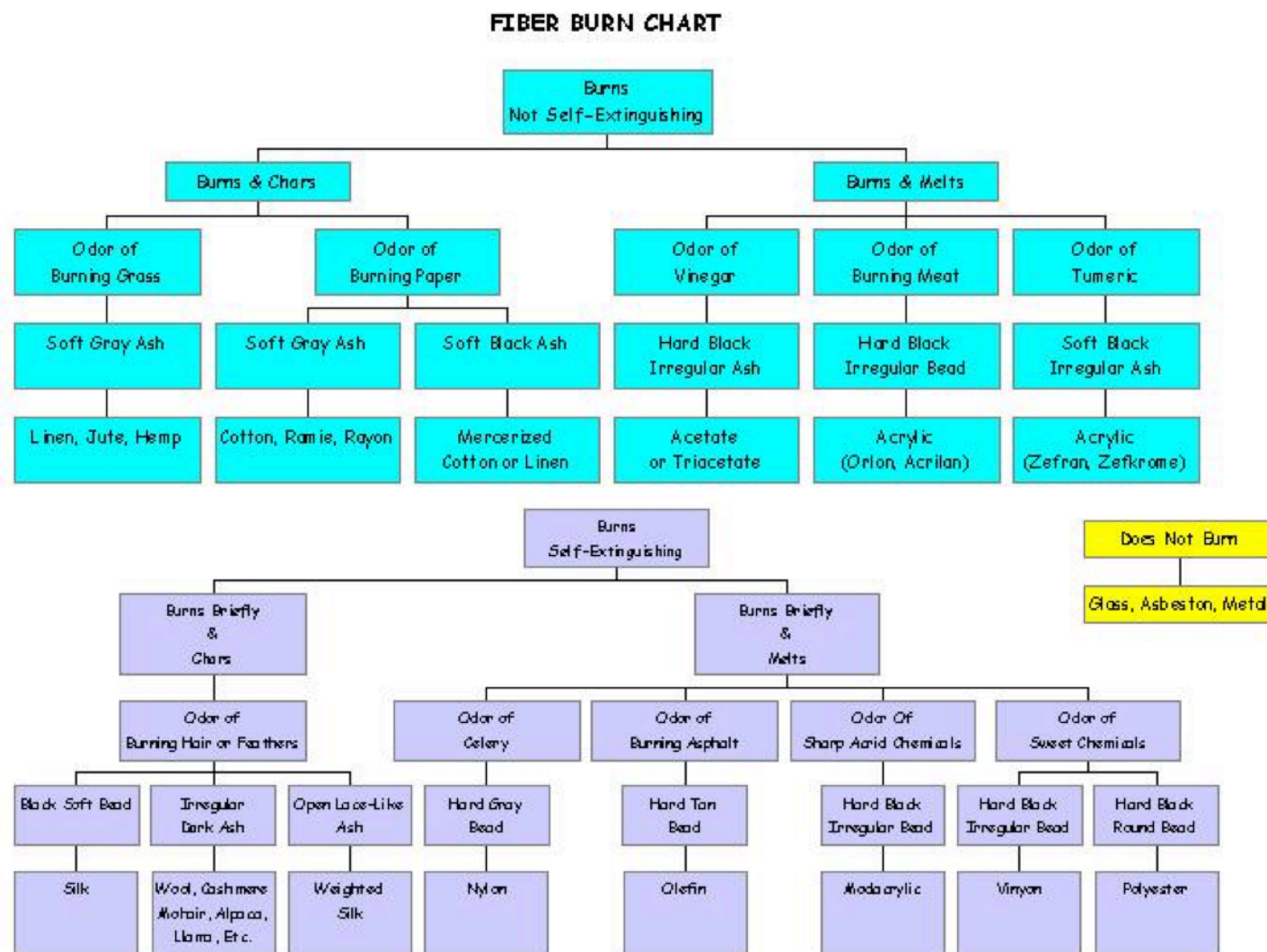
Members Choice:

Jo Williams.

Chair's Challenge:

Sheilagh Robson.

Thank you to everyone who submitted entries last month for the Guild Skills Challenge Day. Also a big thank you to Sue Hiley-Harris for judging the entries. In some categories there were only a few entries so only one place was awarded.



I found the above very helpful chart on ditzypaints.com (the internet is a mine of useful information!). Very useful for those times when we've forgotten to label the bag of fibre lurking at the back of the cupboard - or want to identify if there's any synthetic material in the fibre before we dye it.

	CELLULOSE FIBRES	PROTEIN FIBRES	MANUFACTURED FIBRES	
	Cotton Flax/Linen Ramie Lyocell/Tencel (eco friendly) Bamboo Viscose Rayon PLA/Ingeo (corn)	Silk Wool Speciality wools Animal Hair	Acetate** Acrylic **final test for Acetate is to melt it with Acetone	Nylon Polyester
Approach flame	Rapid ignite, does not fuse or melt when held next to flame.	May curl slightly No melt	Fuses or melts in front of flame	Fuses or shrinks from flame
In flame:	Fast burn, yellow flame	Burns slowly	Fast burning, with melting - may drip	Slow burn, melting - may drip
Removed from flame	Continues to burn Afterglow red/yellow	Slow burn - sometimes self extinguishing	Continues to burn and melt - may drip	Often self extinguishing, may burn slowly
Ash appearance	Soft, feathery grey ash Ash brushes away completely	Stiff, crisp black ash that can be crushed between fingers	Brittle black, hard bead - can be cracked off	Hard shiny bead that cannot be crushed Nylon = grey bead Poly. = black bead
Odour	burning paper or leaves	burning hair or feathers	Acrid, vinegary smell	

With the advanced chemical make up of many textiles today, exact fibre identification must use a microscope. Those working in the textile industry and museums do perform such tests. Weavers, spinners and dyers, however, rarely need an exact laboratory break down of fibre content. In general, we just want to understand the fibre content so we can modify fibre by dyeing, spinning and using the woven fabric.

This chart can be very useful in giving us a rough idea of what we're dealing with. DO be careful when burning anything, though, and be sure to take adequate safety precautions.

NB - finishing chemicals may change burn results.

SATURDAY 10th November

AGM will commence at 11.00am

Visitors welcome after 12.00

Members Sales Day – if any member would like to sell any guild related items.

There will also be items on sale which were recently donated to the Guild by Doris Nethercott. She has asked that the proceeds go to the Guild. Among the items are a spinning wheel, (advertised here), some drop spindles and a Hague knitting linker. There are also a number of knitting machine books as well as general knitting books.

Please email the Guild if you are interested in any of these items (devonguildofwsd@live.co.uk).

Current Committee:

Chairwoman: Sheilagh Robson (to be confirmed at Nov AGM)

Secretary / Vice-Chairpeople: Karen Ball

Webmaster; Terri Bate

Treasurer: Paul Ashton

Programme Secretary; Jo Williams (to be confirmed at AGM)

Fleece Fair Co-ordinator: Sue Heathcote

Events Co-Ordinator: TBD

Newsletter Editor: Terri Bate

Coach Trip Co-ordinator: Jae Burgin

Committee Members:

Sara Parnell (to be confirmed at AGM)

A Warm Welcome to any new members who have joined the Guild since January.

Remember - 2018-2019 programme, contact details, National and local Weavers Spinners and Dyers' news, AGWSD and Devon Newsetters all available on our website which can be found at:
<http://www.devonguildwsd.org.uk>

A Wordsearch to DYE for!

D R N P I L L V E E L W E W L I X R
D I A I L U A E D M P O E T E M E H
L L C G N T X U I O U L G P M W Z E
R A T A E N X O X R D P C W O P I N
A R X J A N A W O H Z O N L O C R N
R U S T N U I T H C Q O F O M O E A
P T Q T N S K V T D R N O O Y M D V
W A M I A S B J R I U P R O T E I N
T N U N T O U M A S I G R E P P O C
E E L Z O D R A E W N N R O N I O N
B V A U M A Y K D I M B D E N T F U
K E I D O A S W E M I I I I L N M B
M O U T Q S X Y O F C F C S G A T H
M P I G N H D R V V Y S U U D O E M
X D Q U Y A D W A L N U T D T B Z S
J O J Y U A T J D M Z Q E A E C E H
M Q N M N M D S W G E R C S M H H R
R C H T J I R O B I H S T O D K F O
D W S W E G I R X U N G B R X M N C
D A O W K W C M G J S L B Y O L P A

ACID	ALUM	ANNATO	
CHROME	COPPER	CUTCH	
DYEING	EARTHOXIDE		FIBRE
HENNA	INDIGO	IRON	
LOGWOOD	MADDER	MORDANT	
NATURAL	ONION	PROTEIN	
RUST	SHIBORI	SODAASH	SUBSTANTIVE
SUNFLOWER	TANNIN	TEA	TIN
VAT	VINEGAR		
WALNUT	WELD	WOAD	